

In the Claims:

29. (Allowed) A method of treating cardiac hypertrophy in a patient comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of interferon gamma (IFN- γ), wherein said cardiac hypertrophy is selected from the group consisting of post myocardial infarction hypertrophy, hypertrophy associated with hypertension, aortic stenosis, valvular regurgitation, cardiac shunt and congestive heart failure.

30. (Allowed) The method of claim 29 wherein said patient is human.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~34~~ 30 wherein said IFN- γ is rhIFN- γ -1b.

33. (Allowed) The method of claim 30 wherein said cardiac hypertrophy has been induced by myocardial infarction.

34. (Allowed) The method of claim 33 wherein said IFN- γ administration is initiated within 48 hours following myocardial infarction.

35. (Allowed) The method of claim 34 wherein said IFN- γ administration is initiated within 24 hours following myocardial infarction.

36. (Previously added) The method of claim 30 wherein said patient is identified as being at risk of developing cardiac hypertrophy prior to said treatment.

37. (Canceled)

38. (Canceled)

39. (Canceled)

40. (Allowed) The method of claim 30 wherein said IFN- γ is administered in combination with at least one further therapeutic agent used for the treatment of cardiac hypertrophy or a heart disease resulting in cardiac hypertrophy.

41. (Allowed) The method of claim 40 wherein said further therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of β -adrenergic-blocking agents, verapamil, diltiazem, and diltiazem.

42. (Allowed) The method of claim 41 wherein said β -adrenergic-blocking agent is a carvedilol, propranolol, metoprolol, timolol, alprenolol or terbutaline.

43. (Allowed) The method of claim 40 wherein said IFN- γ is administered in combination with an antihypertensive drug.

44. (Allowed) The method of claim 40 wherein said IFN- γ is administered with an ACE-inhibitor.

45. (Allowed) The method of claim 40 wherein said IFN- γ is administered with an endothelin receptor antagonist.

46. (Allowed) The method of claim 40 wherein said IFN- γ is administered following the administration of a thrombolytic agent.

47. (Allowed) The method of claim 46 wherein said thrombolytic agent is recombinant human tissue plasminogen activator (rt-PA).

48. (Allowed) The method of claim 40 wherein said IFN- γ is administered following primary angioplasty for the treatment of acute myocardial infarction.

49-55 (Canceled)

56. (Currently amended) ~~A The method of treating cardiac hypertrophy in a patient~~ claim 30 wherein ~~the cardiac hypertrophy has been induced by a cardiac~~

~~disease said hypertrophy associated with hypertension is other than hypertrophic cardiomyopathy of viral origin, characterized by the presence of an elevated level of $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$, comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of interferon gamma ($\text{IFN-}\gamma$).~~

57. (Canceled)

58. (Canceled)

59. (Canceled)